

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03106 262053Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-04 OES-06 AID-05 OIC-02 /031 W
-----270438Z 130822 /14

R 261805Z APR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6849
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 3106

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO, AORG
SUBJ: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY--GERMAN LANGUAGE QUESTION

REF: STATE 092948

1. MISSION OFFICER TOLD GERMAN GENEVA GROUP REPRESENTATIVE (WIRTH) TODAY THAT US WOULD PROBABLY ASK FOR POSTPONEMENT OF ANY DECISION TO INTRODUCE GERMAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WHO. WIRTH SAID THAT THIS IS A VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR THEM, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE EAST GERMANS ARE NOW AGAINST THE USE OF GERMAN IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (IT SUPPOSEDLY MAKES THEM LOOK TOO CLOSE TO THE WEST). BECAUSE OF THIS EAST GERMAN OPPOSITION, THE ISSUE HAS BECOME ONE OF PRINCIPLE FOR THEM, AND THEY MUST PUSH IT VERY STRONGLY.

2. WIRTH SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE SIMPLY REMAIN SILENT ON THE ISSUE DURING THE WHA. HE INDICATED THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE MAKING A DEMARCHE ALONG THESE LINES IN WASHINGTON ON THIS ISSUE.

3. OUR INFORMATION HERE IS THAT THE CANADIANS ARE
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BOUND TO RAISE THIS ISSUE ON PRINCIPLE DURING THE WHA BUT THAT OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS ARE LIKELY TO BE PASSIVE.

4. GIVEN THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT TO THE FRG AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR SOME TIME, THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE DO THE SAME.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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